

SEVENTEENTH CONFERENCE OF SYSTEM SUPERINTENDENTS AND MANAGERS

OUR JOB

Wednesday, May 14, 1941 Harry Slattery, Administrator 10:05 - 10:35 a.m.

- I. WELCOME TO THE REA
- II. USING THE DEMOCRATIC METHOD
- III. THIS AREA IN THE REA PROGRAM
- IV. PROGRAM OF REA
- V. WHY THESE CONFERENCES ARE HELD
- VI. GROWTH OF THE REA
- VII. FINANCIAL SUCCESS OF REA SYSTEMS
- VIII. OUR FUTURE JOB
- IX. WHAT THE OLDER NATIONS HAVE DONE
- X. AGRICULTURE AND REA
- XI. REA AND NATIONAL DEFENSE
- XII. RURAL AMERICA LIGHTS UP
- XIII. THE FINE CONTRIBUTION OF SUPERINTENDENTS AND MANAGERS
- XIV. PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT AND THE REA PROGRAM

SEVENTEENTH CONFERENCE OF SYSTEM SUPERINTENDENTS AND MANAGERS

OUR JOB

Wednesday, May 14, 1961 Harry Shastock, Administrator 10:00 - 10:30 a.m.

- I. WELCOME TO THE REA
- II. REVISIT THE INNOVATIVE METHOD
- III. THE AREA IN THE REA PROGRAM
- IV. PROGRAM OF REA
- V. THE THREE CONFERENCES ARE HELD
- VI. GROWTH OF THE REA
- VII. ESSENTIAL SUCCESS OF REA SYSTEMS
- VIII. OUR FUTURE JOB
- IX. WHAT THE OTHER STATES HAVE DONE
- X. AGRICULTURE AND REA
- XI. REA AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES
- XII. RURAL AMERICA LIGHTS UP
- XIII. THE FINE CONTRIBUTION OF SUPERINTENDENTS AND MANAGERS
- XIV. PRESENT PROBLEMS AND THE REA PROGRAM

SEVENTEENTH CONFERENCE OF SYSTEM SUPERINTENDENTS AND MANAGERS

OUR JOB

Wednesday, May 14, 1941

Harry Slattery, Administrator

10:05 - 10:35 a.m.

I. WELCOME TO THE REA

This is your own headquarters and we hope all of you will make yourselves perfectly at home during the following week.

II. USING THE DEMOCRATIC METHOD

All day next Friday you are to handle this conference yourselves. We hope also that during every other session you will regard this conference as

your conference and ask plenty of questions and make suggestions freely.

III. THIS AREA IN THE REA PROGRAM

The systems in Region 3 plan to serve over 180,000 members, over 41,000 miles of line for \$42,000,000. At the usual farm figure of 5 to a family, there are over 900,000 persons represented in this region. (See information on Blackboard - Column "A")

SEVENTEENTH CONFERENCE OF SYSTEM SUPERINTENDENTS AND MANAGERS

ONE DAY

Wednesday, May 26, 1941
Harry G. Gentry, Administrator
10:00 - 10:30 a.m.

I. WELCOME TO THE DAY

This is your own headquarters and we hope all of you will make your-
selves at home during the following week.

II. THE NEW TACTIC METHOD

All the next Friday you are to handle this conference yourselves. We
will be at hand every other week and you will regard this conference as

your conference and ask plenty of questions and make suggestions freely.

III. THE AREA IN THE AREA PROGRAM

The system in Region 3 plan to serve over 100,000 members, over
41,000 miles of line for \$25,000,000. At the total line figure of 5 to 6
miles, there are over 200,000 people represented in this region. (See in-
formation in Appendix - Column "A")

IV. PROGRAM OF REA

Over \$360,000,000 are to be allocated to 814 systems with over 350,000 miles of lines to eventually serve over 1,000,000 members. With 5 to the family, this means that nearly 6,000,000 people of rural America are to be included in the national REA program. (See information on Blackboard - Column "B")

V. WHY THESE CONFERENCES ARE HELD

There is one main reason why these conferences are held. We want you to know the best practices of all other systems in order that every REA system shall succeed.

VI. GROWTH OF THE REA

When REA began in 1935, about only one farm in ten had central station service. Under the leadership of REA, today nearly three farms in ten have such service. We believe that represents real progress.

VII. FINANCIAL SUCCESS OF REA SYSTEMS

Each one of you has received a copy of our financial report on all REA systems.¹ Briefly, this record is one of complete success both as regards principal and interest due on every REA system. The insignificant amounts unpaid are greatly offset by prepayments of interest and principal not yet due.² Every one of you can be proud of this splendid financial record. You yourselves helped to make it.

Over \$500,000 are to be allocated to RHA systems with over 350,000
of lines to eventually serve over 1,000,000 members. With 5 to the family,
means that nearly 5,000,000 people of rural America are to be included in
the national RHA program. (See information on Blackboard - Column "B")

WHY THESE CONFERENCES ARE HELD

There are two main reasons why these conferences are held. We want you
to know the best principles of all other systems in order that every RHA system
should be improved.

RHA

The RHA program began in 1935, about only one year in fact had central station
systems. The leadership of RHA, today nearly three years in fact have
with service. We believe that representative real progress.

VII. THE FINAL PURPOSE OF THE SYSTEM

Each one of us has received a copy of the financial report on all the
systems. I believe this record is one of complete success both as regards
and interest due in every RHA system. The instant amount appears as
greatly offset by prepayment of interest and principal not yet due. Every one
of you can be proud of this splendid financial record. You yourselves helped to

VIII. OUR FUTURE JOB

While 3 in 10 now have central station service, we have to reach the other 7 who do not have it. Can this job be done?

IX. WHAT THE OLDER NATIONS HAVE DONE

If we look at Europe/³, we note that all the European countries, with 55 to 100% rural electrification make America look backward. I am sure young America can do as well herself. (See information on Blackboard - Column "C")

X. AGRICULTURE AND REA

We are now an integral part of the Department of Agriculture. With the fine cooperation of Secretary of Agriculture Wickard/⁴ and his able staff, we are in a fine position to help you do a well-rounded agricultural job. Such a program will promote sound rural electrification and sound agriculture as well.

XI. REA AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

Whether it is supplying army camps, air fields, power for defense industries, decentralizing industries/⁵ or related defense matters, REA has officially been designated as a National Defense Agency. We want your cooperation to help us do this job.

VIII. OUR FUTURE JOB

While I in no way have central station service, we have to work in the

other I who do not have it. Can this job be done?

IX. WHAT THE OTHER NATIONS HAVE DONE

If we look at Europe, we note that all the European countries, with
25 to 30% rural electrification make America look backward. I am sure you
America can do as well herself. (See information on Blackboard - Column 2)

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industries, decentralizing industries, or related defense matters, REA has
officially been designated as a National Defense Agency. We want your coopera-
tion to help us do this job.

XII. RURAL AMERICA LIGHTS UP

Sometime ago I sent each of you a copy of my little volume "Rural America Lights up." In 142 short pages we have all the salient facts about rural electrification. I hope that all of your personnel, board members and every member on your system will read it. These facts are essential if we are to continue the present successful operation of all REA systems.

XIII. THE FINE CONTRIBUTION OF SUPERINTENDENTS AND MANAGERS

I want to express my sincere appreciation for the fine work that you superintendents and managers are doing daily in order to make every one of your systems succeed.

XIV. PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT AND THE REA PROGRAM

In our recent annual staff conference, President Roosevelt sent us this message on the accomplishments of the REA:

". I am happy on this occasion to send you congratulations on another year's record of notable accomplishments. The records prove the effectiveness of a well-knit and seasoned organization.

"Each year has found increasing growth and continuing progress in rural electrification. For all of you it must be a matter of primary satisfaction to know that your efforts are now bringing light and happiness to over seven hundred thousand rural homes in nearly every state

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"Each year has found increasing growth and continuing progress in rural electrification. For all of you . . . it must be a matter of primary satisfaction to know that your efforts are now bringing light and happiness to over seven hundred thousand rural homes in nearly every state

of our Union. Such achievements lead us to believe that the day is near when the benefits of electricity will become a reality for nearly every farm family in the United States.

"There is also a very present other concern for the Rural Electrification Administration. The Congress has implemented a great program looking toward security of our country from aggression. In achievement of that end widespread availability of electricity is a major factor. The more than three hundred thousand miles of line now reaching into nearly every part of the country assist in no small degree the great national effort that must be made to preserve the principles of democracy. Therein lies another reason for the importance of the continued expansion of these lines as a vital necessity for total defense."

I know of no finer way to end my remarks than on this splendid note of congratulation from the President.

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I know of no finer way to end my remarks than on this splendid note

of congratulation from the President.

NOTES:

1. Financial and Operating Statistics of all Systems to Which REA Had Made Allotments as of September 30, 1940.
2. You will note that the total interest due to the REA under system loans was \$3,031,141.38. However, the amount actually paid to REA was \$3,260,678.40. In other words, \$229,537.02 more was paid in interest than was actually due.

The same is true of principal due the REA on loans. The amount actually paid was \$3,052,563.63. The amount due was \$2,401,838.65. In other words, \$650,724.98 more of principal was paid to REA than was actually due.

So that when we find that \$40,035 of interest and \$81,473.99 of principal, or a total of \$121,508.99, was overdue on a few systems, this small sum is more than offset by the substantially greater amount of \$880,262.00 that was paid in interest and principal before actually due.

3. PERCENTAGE OF RURAL RESIDENTS OF OTHER NATIONS RECEIVING ELECTRICITY

Norway	-	over 55%
Sweden	-	65%
Denmark	-	over 85%
Japan	-	90%
New Zealand	-	over two-thirds
France	-	over 90%
Holland	-	practically 100%

4. "Hundreds of REA cooperatives already operating, with more organizing every month, are taking electric energy into the open country. Thus, the first essential for the operation of decentralized industry--a power supply--is being provided."--Secretary of Agriculture Wickard.
5. ". We are striving for the maximum possible decentralization of new defense industries not only because it is sound practice for the country as a whole but because of its importance to agriculture. Decentralized industry brought close to rural areas means jobs for low-income farmers and a diversified new market for farm products"--Chester C. Davis, Agricultural Commissioner associated with the Council of National Defense.

NOTES:

1. Financial and Operating Statistics of all Systems to Which REA Had Made Allotments as of September 30, 1940.

2. You will note that the total interest due to the REA under system loans was \$3,071,141.88. However, the amount actually paid to REA was \$3,260,678.40. In other words, \$209,536.52 more was paid in interest than was actually due.

The same is true of principal due the REA on loans. The amount actually paid was \$5,055,563.67. The amount due was \$3,401,878.60. In other words, \$1,653,685.07 more of principal was paid to REA than was actually due.

So that when we find that \$40,039 of interest and \$81,477.92 of principal, or a total of \$121,508.92, was overpaid on a few systems, this small sum is more than offset by the substantially greater amount of \$2,060,266.00 that was paid in interest and principal before actually due.

3. PERCENTAGE OF RURAL RESIDENTS OF OTHER NATIONS RECEIVING ELECTRICITY

Norway	-	over 95%
Sweden	-	65%
Denmark	-	over 85%
Japan	-	90%
New Zealand	-	over two-thirds
France	-	over 90%
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4. "Hundreds of REA cooperatives already operating, with more organizing every month, are taking electric energy into the open country. Thus, the first essential for the operation of decentralized industry--a power supply--is being provided."--Secretary of Agriculture Wickard.

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